Vol. V. Numb. 16.

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*The* Obſervator *Vindicated from the* Aſperſions *of the* Rehearſal. *Of the Exporting of* Wooll *from* England *and* Ireland *to* France. *Of the* Spaniſh Trade. *Of the* Popiſh Prieſts *in* Ireland. *The* Country-man's Propoſal *for Rooting the* Popiſh-Prieſts *and* Nonjuring-Parſons *out of* England.

From Wednesday May the 8th, to Saturday May the 11th, 1706.

*Obſ.* HOneſt *Country-man*, the laſt time we met, you told me That the *Rehearſal* had accus'd me of Abuſing His *Royal Highneſs*; prithee, how does he make that out?

*Country-m.* Here 'tis, Numb. 100. *What is the meaning*, ſays he, *of the* Obſervator's *Sounding now again his* Old Levet *againſt the* Admiralty, *and the ill Conduct of our* Naval Affairs? *I told you before of the ſeveral Attacks he made againſt his* Royal Highneſs, *the* Lord High-Admiral *by Name, and quoted his very Words. Where then muſt this new Accuſation light?*

*Obſ. Roger*, this poor *Malicious Wretch* has taken all the Pains poſſible to prove himſelf a *Blockhead*. I ſpoke of ſome *Miſmanagements* in the *Victualling*, is that a Reflection on His *Royal Highneſs*, or His *Council?* Can any one imagine that in ſo great a Concern as that of the *Admiralty*, and *Offices* depending upon it, there ſhould not be ſome *Knaves*, ſome *Fools*, and ſome *Cheats* Employ'd, eſpecially ſince our *Offices* are not throughly Purged from *High-Flyers* and *Memorialiſts*, who, beſides their *Private Intereſt* of *Gain*, have a *Publick View* to the *Court* of St. *Germains*. 'Twould be very *Invidious* and *Baſe*, as well as *Unmannerly*, to Charge His *Royal Highneſs* with the *Miſmanagements* of *all* Inferior *Officers* Employ'd in the Service of the *Navy*; and yet this *Nonjuring-Scribbler* does it at every Turn. What's his meaning elſe, that ſpeaking againſt *ill Men* Employ'd in the *Navy*, is ſpeaking againſt His *Royal Highneſs?* Is not this an open Aſſertion, that the Prince does Countenance ſuch Men?

But, I can aſſure him, that the *Lord High-Admiral*, and His *Council*, do think as bad of theſe Men as the *Obſervator* can do, and that whenever they are detected they are ſeverely Puniſh'd. His *Royal Highneſs* has always Encouraged ſuch Perſons as have proved the *Officers* under him Guilty of *Miſmanagements*, *Cheats* or *Frauds*. This I know of my particular Experience, and, therefore, 'tis highly Baſe, for this *Impudent Scribbler* to make the *Prince* a *Party* with theſe *Miſcreants*, by ſaying, *He that ſpeaks againſt the One, ſpeaks againſt the Other*; and, I hope, Notice will be taken of him.

But this was ever the *Cant* of the *Faction*; if you ſpeak againſt a *Nonjuring-Prieſt*, as *Leſley*; a *Thieving-Prieſt*, as *Cluer*; or a *Drunken-Prieſt*, as many of 'em are, then they ſay you ſpeak againſt the *Church*, the *Bells* are Rung backward, the whole *Eccleſiaſtical Fabrick* is on Fire, ſet on Fire by *Preſbyterians*, and to be rais'd by the Lord knows who; nay, ſo far have they carried this *Cant*, that when Her Majeſty would not ſuffer the Ground to be cut from under Her Feet by a *Mad Hair-Brain'd Faction*, preſently, in their *Impudent Memorial*, they Arraign'd the *Queen* as having abated Her *Zeal* for the *Church*; and, for Arguments ſake, allowing his *Cant* to be right, in their *Impudent Reflections* upon the *Lord Treaſurer*, Did they not *Reflect* on the *Queen?* What you and I, *Roger*, have Charg'd the *Navy Folk* with, we have always prov'd; but the *Memorialiſts* have not prov'd one Tittle of what they have ſo Wickedly alledged againſt the *Lord Treaſurer*.

Beſides, *Roger*, what we have done in theſe Reſpects has been purely for the Intereſt of the *Queen*, Her *Government*, and the Good of Her *Subjects*; and the *Sailors* themſelves will confeſs, that ſince the laſt Complaint we made to His Royal Highneſs of the Badneſs of the Proviſions, that Affair has, in a great meaſure, been Remedied; nor have we done this for the ſake of Intereſt: We ever brought ſuch Complaints in the Names of other Perſons, that there might not be the leaſt ſuſpicion of *Private Intereſt* in the Caſe. On the laſt Complaint againſt the *Victuallers*, the Perſons Complaining had 300 *l.* given them as a Reward by the Lord *Treaſurer*, of which the *Obſervator*, or his *Country-man* had not one *Farthing*, never one *Sous* from the *Prince*, the *Treaſurer*, the *Queen*, or any under Her in the *Government*, in whoſe Service we have been Volunteers at our own Expence and Charges, and muſt be *Villify'd* by every *Scribbler* for doing our *Queen* and *Government* the trueſt Service.

*Country-m.* Maſter, all this is true; but let 'em ſay what they will of us that ihan't deter us from doing our Duty; if I ſee any Body running away with the *Publick Money* I'll cry out, *Stop Thief*; I'll make a ſad Roaring but I'll get him Seiz'd.

Maſter, we won't mind ſuch Fellows as the *Rehearſal*, or all the *Fine Beau Scribblers* in the Kingdom; but we'll go on in our Old Blunt way, Inform our ſelves and the People as well as we can. My Head has been running on *Trade* ever ſince we talk'd of the *Trade* of *Spain*; what you then ſaid was well enough lik'd, that by the Reducing *Spain* to its Obedience to its Natural Lord King *Charles* III, the *Trade* of *Spain* will fall into the Hands of the *Engliſh*, ſeems to be true, and carries a fair Face with it, but I am told that the *French*, amongſt other fair Promiſes to the *Spaniard*, have engag'd to ſupply them with their *Stuffs*, and other *Manufactures* of that Kind, inſtead of the *Bays's*, &c. that we us'd to ſend them, and if it be ſo, our *Woollen Manufactures*, which are the ſupport of our *Poor*, and have brought the *Trade* of *England* to ſo great a heigth, will quickly fall to nothing,

and

and this methinks ſtrikes at the very Root of *Trade*.

*Obſ.* What you ſay, *Country-man*, is very true, and what is worſe, we are our ſelves the *Abettors* of our own Ruin: For you muſt know, tho' there is *Wooll* enough in *France*, yet it is ſo Courſe, Short, and Hairy, that it will not draw into ſo fine a Thread as to make thoſe *Stuffs* without our Long Comb'd *Wooll* mix'd with it, ſo that if the *French* were not by our ſelves furniſh'd with this *Wooll*, the *Spaniards* would go Naked.

*Country-m.* Why, then, is there not Care taken to prevent this Evil? For I am told the *French* have got ſeveral of our *Cloathiers* amongſt 'em, have ſet up ſeveral *Manufactures*, and you ſay have our *Woolls*, ſo that in time, at this Rate, they will beat us out of our *Turky Trade*, and then farewell to the Staple of Old *England*.

*Obſ.* You are ſtill in the right, my Honeſt *Country-man*. But you muſt know the *Wiſdom* of the *Nation*, foreſeeing this, has made ſeveral *Good Laws* to prevent it; and the *Government* has taken ſuch Care by placing *Officers* all along the Suſpected *Coaſts*, particularly thoſe of *Kent* and *Suſſex*, that 'tis almoſt Morally impoſſible to carry away any *Wooll* from hence, or at leaſt it is ſo ſmall a quantity, that can be of little or no uſe to them; the *Owling Trade* is quite broke.

*Country-m.* I believe 'tis; for I heard an *Owler*, 'tother day, a Curſing Captain *Baker*; *Who*, he ſays, *does uſe 'em moſt Unmercifully, and when he catches them, he leaves 'em as bare as a new Shorn Sheep.* But, Maſter, I am told, When the *French* found themſelves defeated in that *Trade* here on our *Southern Coaſts*, they then turn'd all their Applications to *Ireland*; and 'tis n t to be doubted but they are, and will be, amply Supply'd from thence; both the Intereſt, as well as Inclinations, of the *Iriſh Papiſhes* being for them.

*Obſ.* You are rightly inform'd in that Point; the *Owling Trade* is gone that way; and the *Iriſh Smugglers* and *Owlers* have vaſt Encouragement. *Fleece-Wooll* in *Ireland* is worth but Three Pence a Pound, and in *France* it is worth from Twenty Eight to Thirty Two Pence. *Comb'd-Wooll* in *Ireland* is worth from Ten to Twelve a Pound, and in *France* from Four Shillings and Six Pence to Five Shillings a Pound. Here's a great Profit, and what won't ſome Men do to attain it? They'll Ruin their *Country*, *Trade* and *Commerce*; nay, Enſlave their own *Poſterity* for the ſake of this *Filthy Lucre*.

But I muſt let you farther know, *Country-man*, that the *Laws* Enacted to reſtrain this Practice, tho' made by our *Parliaments* here, have the ſame Force in *Ireland*. And I am told, That my *Lord Treaſurer*, finding this Deſign of the *French* upon our *Trade*, has, in Conjunction with his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*, *Lord-Lieutenant* of that Kingdom, directed the ſame Methods to be purſued there as here: And that under the *Conduct* of a Perſon, who, I am told, knows well that Country, and all their *Clandeſtine Tricks* and *Management*, and is of known *Loyalty* to the Queen, and *Fidelity* to his Country; ſo that 'tis hop'd, in a ſhort time, a full ſtop will be put to that Practice in *Ireland* as in *England*.

*Country-m.* Maſter, I wou'dn't go to *Ireland* in that Gentlemans *Poſt* for any thing. The *Iriſh-Papiſhes* will Beat out his Brains. I am told, That *Popiſh-Prieſts* grow in *Ireland*, like *Cabbages* in a *Garden*, and that they have liberty to *Maſs* the Folk to the *Devil*.

*Obſ.* *Country-man*, the *Prieſts* have their *Liberty*: But, I believe, there were never fewer of them in that Kingdom than at preſent: And the Reaſon is plain, They have their *Liberty* by *Law*, and the ſame *Law* reſtrains them; they are to be Regiſter'd, and as they Dye off, the Vacancy is not to be fill'd up; no more to come into the Kingdom; ſo that in Forty or Fifty Years there will not be one left.

*Country-m.* I hate the *Papiſhes*: But, methinks, I could e'en wiſh my ſelf a *Prieſt* in that Kingdom, for the longeſt Liver takes All; when there is but one left the whole Kingdom will be his Pariſh. I'll warrant'n he'll make the Poor *Ignoramus*'s pay dear enough for *Ave-Maries*, *Pater-Noſters*, *Holy Cununarums*, &c. Maſter, he'll be a *Pope*, what a deal of *Money* will he get for Praying the Folks Souls out of *Purgatory*? Where there is but one of a *Trade* in a Kingdom, his Profit muſt be great.

*Obſ.* There is but one *Obſervator* in the Kingdom, and you ſee he can't Live upon his *Trade*. But, *Roger*, this was a pretty Device to get the *Prieſts* out of that Kingdom; and the *Prieſts* are well enough pleas'd themſelves; they are Provided for their Life time, and they don't care for the Succeſſion of the *Prieſthood*; they have no *Vicar-General* or *Biſhop* over them; every Man is both *Biſhop* and *Prieſt*; they are under no Subjection but to the *Civil Power*.

*Country-m.* I wiſh we could get rid of 'em in *England*, I don't care by what Means or Methods. But I like the way they have in ſome Countries, I think 'tis in *Swedeland*, where if they are caught they are *Gelt*.

*Obſ.* You ſhould ſay *Coſtrated*.

*Country-m.* I won't ſay hne Words, I ſay I would have 'em all *Gelt*, and I would turn *Prieſt-Gelder*; ride about the Country, and cry, *Have you any* Prieſts *to Geld?* Ah, Maſter, 'twould be a pure Employment for me! How ſhould I rejoice to come Home with a Bag of *Popiſh Bull-Stones* by my ſide? I fancy they'd make good Soil.

*Obſ.* Thou hadſt beſt draw up thy *Propoſal* againſt next *Seſſions*.

*Country-m.* Aye, Maſter, ſo I will. And I'll have a Clauſe in the *Act*, That all the *Nonjuring-Parſons* in the Kingdom ſhall be likewiſe *Gelt*, and then what will become of Mr. *Rehearſal?* Come, Maſter, we'll go to Bed with a Good Health to all thoſe that hate *Popiſh-Prieſts* and *Nonjuring-Parſons*.


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